Congress of the United States Washington, DC 20515

May 27, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi Speaker U.S. House of Representatives Washington, D.C.

Dear Madam Speaker:

President Biden's American Jobs Plan is a bold vision for a once in a generation federal investment in our nation's crumbling infrastructure. To fulfill this vision, Congress must ensure that middle class family-sustaining jobs will be created by including strong labor standards on all forms of federal infrastructure investment moving forward.

Whether it is through grants, loans, state revolving loan funds, bonds, or tax incentives, the primary condition of receiving the taxpayers' money must be compliance with strong labor standards. It is the federal government's strongest measure to guarantee middle class job creation and a positive return on investment for taxpayers, small businesses and their communities. They are especially necessary for jobs that are being created in our districts by the clean energy industry due to federal tax incentives.

In December 2020, Ways and Means Chairman Neal highlighted the need to ensure workers in this industry are afforded the same protections that workers who build and maintain other infrastructure projects already receive. He stated, "Workers in the green energy sector deserve good pay, benefits, safe workplaces, and all rights and protections afforded under our nation's labor laws. Unions are crucial to ensuring collective bargaining rights and to standing up for workers whose employers are violating the law. I am disappointed by the low unionization rate within the renewable energy sector and dismayed at reports of attempts to restrict unionization and retaliate against workers for attempting to unionize. Workers must be at the center of a transition to a green economy." Furthermore, he went on to add, "In the years to come, future extensions of federal support for green energy and energy efficiency incentives must be accompanied by a commitment to strong labor standards and worker protections."

We strongly agree.

For too long, policy makers have been presented with a false choice between safeguarding our planet or safeguarding the paychecks of their constituents. We know that both can and should be done by fully attaching strong labor standards to clean energy tax incentives. Such clean energy tax incentives must pay prevailing wage. They must train the next generation of skilled craft workers via registered apprenticeship. They must promote the hiring of our constituents and the

prevention of wage theft. And they must build out domestic supply chains with pro-American procurement policies. Finally, they must give workers the ability to choose for themselves whether or not to join a union. With these standards, the already market-driven transition to cleaner energy will guarantee a middle -class standard of living, especially for workers transitioning from fossil fuel jobs, which currently provide significantly higher wages and benefits than the clean energy industry.

Now is the time to act boldly and deliver decisively for Americans. Together we can honor the trust they placed in us and guarantee jobs with middle-class wages and benefits that they so rightly deserve. Only then will we have realized the core vision of Build Back Better. We look forward to working with you to craft and pass a bill to that end.

Sincerely,

PRAMILA JAYAPAL

Member of Congress

STEPHANIE MURPHY

Member of Congress

SUSAN WILD

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Member of Congress

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